CG Mentors Troops!

By Fred J. Rodriguez, Ph.D., Director Fort Riley Education Directorate

The Commanding General, Major General Dennis E. Hardy, has become a mentor through eArmyU. eArmyU, a new educational program for soldiers, is a Commander's program that revolutionizes education by providing distance learning opportunities anywhere, anytime across the Army. eArmyU is developing educated, technologically skillful soldiers for the current force while advancing Army distance learning in support of a global, customer-focused education platform.

At Fort Riley we are aggressively extending this educational program to a number of soldiers stationed here, as well as those preparing to mobilize to Iraq. A key to the program's success, however, will be mentoring—investing the time to encourage these young men and women as they juggle the great demands put on them during this critical era in U.S. History and attempt to advance their academic and professional careers at the same time

As we all cheer for the K-State team during the upcoming football season, remember those who are sacrificing their lives to ensure that we enjoy a safe, secure community. By becoming a mentor, you can play a vital role in supporting our soldiers as they strive to further their education. Through this strategic mentoring initiative we will track outcomes to determine which approaches to mentoring advance both personal and institutional goals.

Retention of quality soldiers is key to the military's success and mission. eArmyU has been instrumental in reaching the command's reenlistment goal. However, recruiting is only the half of the game. The second half still remains and that is retaining and graduating the talent. "Quality mentoring molds "blue-chippers" encouraging and creating a ripple effect."

What does it take to become a mentor? It simply takes the desire to support any soldier who is enrolled in the eArmyU program. To sign up to become a mentor, send an email to eArmyU@riley.army.mil.